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SOURCE Dziennik Polski.

WOJEWODZTWO COUNCIL ASSIGNS DOCTORS,
PLANS THEIR TIME TO INCLUDE SOCIAL WORK

It is now possible and advisable to plan the physician's time. The present organization of public health which gives the medical department of the WRN (Wojewodztwo Rada Narodowa, Wojewodztwo National Council) the exclusive right to assign physicians should improve the present situation in medicine.

For example, a certain Dr K. in Krakow (since transferred) served as specialist at the MRN (Miejska Rada Narodowa, Municipal National Council). He was also on the staff of the municipal hospital (later absorbed by the Institute of Industrial Medicine) and also the regional social insurance physician. He also served as plant physician for two large factories. According to official records, he received payment for 26 hours of work daily.

Dr K. was not an exception in the Krakow medical profession. There were many others. The constant shortage of doctors, even in Karkow, permitted such practices, especially among unknown doctors who did their work superficially. On the other hand, the top men in the profession, the well-known specialists, had a lucrative practice and were satisfied to work a few hours at the clinic and 3 or 4 hours at home. There is a third type of physician, the most numerous, who sees many insurance patients during the day, and late at night (often on foot) visits poor patients in distant parts of the city, or who spends long hours at the hospital, clinic, or plant infirmary. Such physicians do not have five positions, only two, to which they apply themselves conscientiously. Examples of such conscientious doctors are: Dr Ferkowna in Rakowice, Dr Zielinski in Brzeszcze, Doctors Czachowski, W. Zulawski, and W. Godlewski in Krakow, Dr Rogalska at the Narutowicz hospital, Dr Spoczynska, head of the sanatorium at Izdebnik, and many others.

An end has been put to the fictitious 26-hour workday. The medical department of the WRN is the only agency to employ physicians and assign them to hospitals, health centers, plants, etc.

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Every physician, after having put in his hours of work, should have a little time left for taking care of other matters related to his profession, for further study, and for a little work outside his office. These physicians should also see healthy persons who need help. The help which prominent physicians could give by acting as instructors would be invaluable. They could prepare short scripts for instruction purposes, nursing care, etc.

Up to now, these outstanding doctors have taken no part in general social work. The younger doctors cover the rural areas, while the older doctors have avoided doing their share of this work.

At a meeting of doctors held recently, Prof Dr T. Tempka, at the initiative of the Ministry of Health, presented in a well-prepared report a number of rules doctors should follow when they write prescriptions. They should stop prescribing foreign drugs when Polish drugs are just as good. They should refrain from writing long prescriptions, and apply only the most needed specifics.

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